

REMARKS

A principal purpose of this Preliminary Amendment is to remove the multiply dependent claims and avoid the fee associated therewith, applicant reserving the right to reintroduce claims to canceled combined subject matter.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version With Markings To Show Changes Made**".

Respectfully submitted,

 *Reg. # 32,004*

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Version With Markings To Show Changes Made**In the Claims**

The claims have been amended as follows:

7. (Amended) A process according to ~~any one of claims 3 to 6~~ claim 3, in which homogenisation is carried out by ultramilling in a colloidal mill.
8. (Amended) A process according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, in which the silica-alumina is calcined at a temperature in the range 700°C to 1200°C for at least 10 hours.
9. (Amended) A process according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1, in which the silica-alumina is initially calcined at a temperature in the range of 350°C to 550°C for at least 1 hour, then at a temperature in the range of about 500°C to about 1200°C for at least 6 hours.
10. (Amended) A process according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1, in which the silica-alumina is homogeneous on the micrometre scale.
11. (Amended) A process according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 10~~ claim 1, in which the silica-alumina is homogeneous on the nanometre scale.
12. (Amended) A process according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 11~~ claim 1, in which the amount of anionic and cationic impurities is less than 0.1% by weight.
13. (Amended) A process according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 12~~ claim 1, in which the silica-alumina contains 0.5% to 30% by weight of silica with respect to the anhydrous product.
14. (Amended) A process according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 13~~ claim 1, in which the group VIII metal content is in the range 0.1% to 50% by weight.
15. (Amended) A process according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 14~~ claim 1, in which the group VIII metal is cobalt.

16. (Amended) A process according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 15~~ claim 1, in which the catalyst contains at least one additional element selected from the group formed by: ruthenium, molybdenum, tantalum, platinum and palladium.

17. (Amended) A process according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 16~~ claim 1, in which the catalyst further contains 0.1% to 5% by weight of at least one oxide M_2O_3 of at least one metal M selected from the group formed by lanthanum, praseodymium and neodymium.

18. (Amended) A process according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 17~~ claim 1, in which the catalyst is used in suspension in a liquid phase, in a three-phase reactor.

20. (Amended) A process according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 17~~ claim 1, in which the catalyst is used in a fixed bed in the form of particles with an equivalent diameter in the range 2 to 10 mm.